Are you dreaming of a white Christmas?

20 December 2011 - Those dreaming of a white Christmas this year look set to be disappointed, as there is little chance of snow for most parts of the country on Christmas Day.

Met Office forecasts indicate that this Christmas will in fact be a rather mild one with a fair amount of cloud for many and a stiff breeze in some parts of the north.

The run up to Christmas will also be rather mild for the time of year, although with a brief chillier spell on Friday with the chance of a few wintry showers in north west Scotland.

Martin Young, Met Office Chief Forecaster said: "In stark contrast to last year the chance of any of us actually seeing a white Christmas this year is almost negligible. In fact it is more likely to be a Christmas of rather grey skies and green grass."

Temperatures on Christmas day are likely to range between 8 to 12 °C, 2 or 3 °C above what you could normally expect at this time of year.

Transcript for Met Office weather forecast for Christmas (PDF, 76 kB)

Despite the mild conditions, this Christmas is likely to be far from memorable in the record books. The mildest ever Christmas Day was 15.6 °C at Killerton, Devon in 1920 and Leith, Edinburgh in 1896. The chilliest Christmas was last year when temperatures didn't rise above -7.8 °C at Llysdinam, Powys.

Christmas Day forecasts for almost 5000 different locations across the UK will be available on our beta website from Wednesday or you can visit our special Christmas Day event forecast.

Last updated: 20 December 2011

Met Office weather forecast for Christmas

Martin Young – Chief Forecaster

In sharp contrast to this time last year when many parts of the country were under snow and ice, the weather from now until Christmas looks like it's going to be a much milder and unsettled. By tomorrow we'll have some mild air coming right up across the country indicated by the orange and the yellow colours on this map. However, there will be a short colder interlude through Friday and into early Saturday as this colder air indicated on the map by the blue colour comes down from the north west, possibly giving the odd wintry shower in north western Britain. However, by the time we get to Sunday which is Christmas day, much milder south westerly flow will have become re-established across the country and therefore although it's possible that the far north west and higher ground in the far north west may get some snow, the vast majority of people the risk of any snow on Christmas day is absolutely negligible. The provisional signs up to New Year is that the weather will continue, predominately unsettled but the latest forecast please keep up to date with our website.